

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03701 051352Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /059 W

----- 027695

O 051311Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1320

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3701

USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJ: U.S. FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND

REF: A) STATE 047633

B) BANGKOK 3618

C) STATE 048225

1. THAI-LANGUAGE DAILY NEWS CARRIED AFP REPORT QUOTING STATE
DEPARTMENT AS SAYING 1) THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THAILAND
AND US FOR MILITARY TO BE WITHDRAWN BY GRADUAL STAGES UNTIL
COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AND 2) QTE HE FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT
THE RTG WAS NOT IN POSITION TO TAKE ANY ACTION REGARDING
WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS AT PRESENT BECAUSE THAILAND MUST REMEDY
ITS OWN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS FIRST UNQTE.

2. CHIEF OF PRESS DIVISION, MFA, ASKED TODAY IF QTE STATE
DEPARTMENT ACTUALLY SAID THAT UNQTE.

3. USING REFTELS A AND C, PRESS ATTACHE RELAYED WHAT STATE
SPOKESMAN ACTUALLY SAID ON SUBJECT.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 03701 051352Z

4. OBVIOUSLY, SLIGHTEST IMPLICATION THAT THAI GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS UNTIL QTE INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES SETTLED UNQTE WILL PROVOKE RENEWED CHARGE US HAS USURPED THAI SOVEREIGN PREROGATIVES. IN THAT REGARD, WE URGE SLIGHT ALTERATION OF PROPOSED ANSWER IN REFTEL C TO QUESTION QTE DOES THAT MEAN WE WOULD LEAVE IF THEY ASKED US TO DO SO UNQTE. PROPOSED ANSWER REFTEL C MAY BE CONSTRUED BY SOME NEWSMEN HERE TO MEAN US TROOPS COULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN BY UNI-LATERAL RTG DECISION. WE PREFER GET ON PUBLIC RECORD OUR ANSWER IN REFTEL B QTE AS YOU KNOW, US MILITARY FACILITIES ARE LOCATED AT ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT BASES. OBVIOUSLY, THE ULTIMATE DECISION ON THE USE OF THOSE FACILITIES BY US FORCES IS UP TO THE RTG UNQTE.

KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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05 JUL 2006

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